



Tufts
UNIVERSITY

Sunil Kumar
President

September 14, 2023

Dear AASHE Conference Participant:

Welcome to Boston! On behalf of the entire Tufts University community, we are honored to be a host institution for this year's AASHE Conference & Expo.

Higher education has a responsibility to pursue avenues that will have the greatest impact in the pressing area of sustainable development. These include educating responsible leaders, developing solutions, and setting and achieving ambitious goals for our operations. We invite you to learn more about the ways that Tufts contributes to these imperatives by joining our various events and activities over the next few days.

We look forward to welcoming you to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts in Boston on Sunday, where sustainable practices are an integral part of our education in the fine arts. Our faculty and students will share their approach to climate action, waste reduction, and climate justice in scholarship and practice. While you are there, we invite you to visit *Double Arrows*, an exhibition of weavings and jewelry by Elizabeth James-Perry, enrolled member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag and a lifelong traditional artist, scientist, and illustrator.

Tufts faculty and students are helping develop unique solutions that support emerging technologies sustainably. Tufts' Silklab is on the cutting edge of materials science, inventing "living materials" derived from silk. This biomaterial alleviates global resource depletion and promotes the circular economy while achieving solutions like food preservation and pathogen identification. We are proud of our Offshore Wind Energy Engineering graduate program, whose faculty and students are supporting the development of new wind energy off the coast of Massachusetts that is planned to provide more than 50% of New England's power needs by 2050. This collective effort is core to the fossil fuel transition in our region. Tufts has ambitious plans for zero-carbon campuses. Dano Weisbord will discuss Tufts' decarbonization efforts in a conference panel on resilience and decarbonization on Monday.

Tufts is treading new territory with co-curricular programs that teach resilient climate leadership. At the "Designing Emotionally Informed Sustainability Programming" session, Sustainability Education and Outreach Specialist Ann Ward will share Tufts' innovative cocurricular programs that are designed to meet the urgency of the climate emergency and support student wellbeing in the post-pandemic era.

At Tufts, we aim to maximize our impact through education, research, and demonstration to advance sustainability on our campuses and to create just sustainable communities for all. We are proud of our contributions, and on behalf of the entire Tufts University community, I hope that the AASHE Boston 2023 Conference will provide you with new relationships, new approaches, and new energy to maximize your impact.

Sincerely,

Sunil Kumar
President

Dano Weisbord
Chief Sustainability Officer